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LLOYD EPSTEIN
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March 26, 2015

VIA ECF

Hon. Andrew L. Carter, Jr.
Thurgood Marshall
United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

**Re: United States v. Daryl Payton and Benjamin Durant
Dkt. No. 12-CR-887 (ALC)**

Dear Judge Carter:

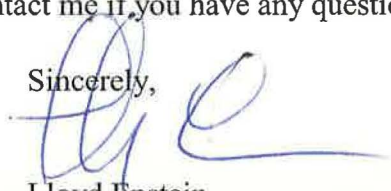
James Roth and I represent Mr. Payton on this matter. The Federal Defenders represent Mr. Durant. The purpose of this letter is to request that Mr. Payton and Mr. Durant be excused from the April 13, 2015 conference. Mr. Durant's attorneys have authorized me to submit this request on Mr. Durant's behalf.

The Court has directed the parties to appear on April 13th to discuss whether the protective order governing certain government disclosures to defense counsel should be expanded so as to allow counsel to provide a copy of this discovery to the defendants' counsel in the parallel civil proceeding.

Mr. Payton lives in Philadelphia. Mr. Durant is in Florida. Since this conference will involve strictly legal matters, their attendance should not be necessary.

Please feel free to have your Chambers contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Epstein

LE:pc

cc. All counsel - via ECF